shown in FIGS. 16 and 17 and this embodiment operates generally in the same way with the exception of the operation of the compression spring 974 as compared to the tension spring 774. The embodiment shown in FIG. 18 includes a support frame 1004 having a side rail 1006. The end plate 920 is shown in an engaged position. The flexible cover 910 is engaged with the support frame 1004 and the finger 968 of the locking member 960, configured to slidingly engage an outwardly extending flange 1018 of the support frame 1004, is shown in an engage position, similar to that shown in FIG. 17 with respect to the prior embodiment, wherein the finger 968 can be slidingly positioned under an end 1021 of the outwardly extending flange 1018, as shown.

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows:

1.   (Twice Amended) A tonneau cover apparatus for removable attachment about a perimeter of a cargo box and tailgate of a pickup truck, the tonneau cover apparatus comprising:

a flexible cover;

an end plate;

a support frame for attachment to the cargo box; the support frame having first and second side rails forming opposite sides of the support frame, each of said first and second side rails including an end plate engagement member, each end plate engagement member being configured to engage and receive similar, but spaced apart, portions of the end plate, wherein the end plate is attached to an end of the flexible cover and the end plate is configured to cooperatively engage and pivot with respect to each end plate engagement member as the end plate passes into and out of a fixed stretching position, wherein the flexible cover is tensed when the end plate passes into the fixed stretching position; the end plate having an integrally formed radial engaging surface and each of the end plate engagement members having a receiving surface that engages at least a portion of the integrally formed radial engaging surface when the end plate pivots into the fixed stretching position.

Please amend claim 7 to read as follows:

2